WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A digital camera comprising:

an image pickup unit for imaging a subject to obtain digital image data;

an image storing unit for storing at least said digital image data of a photographed image that is obtained with said image pick up unit;

an image display unit for displaying at least an image being presently photographed;

a reference image designating unit with which one or more of at least partial areas of an image to be referenced for image compositing are designated as a reference image area; and

an image compositing unit which produces a composite image such that a reference image within said reference image area is displayed on said image display unit as superposed on the image being presently photographed.

2. The digital camera according to claim 1, wherein image data for said image to be referenced for image compositing is data for either the photographed image or a specified image to be quoted.

3. The digital camera according to claim 1, wherein said

reference image area is displayed in a specified position, a position on said image to be referenced for image compositing or a designated position on said image display unit.

4. The digital camera according to claim 1, wherein said reference image is processed by at least one processing step selected from the group consisting of translation, rotation, resizing, density/color retouching, binarization, edge enhancement, change in painting brushwork and change in light transmittance.

5. The digital camera according to claim 1, wherein said reference image being displayed on said image display unit is automatically enlarged or reduced in accordance with a magnification of an image being presently photographed.

6. The digital camera according to claim 1, further including a function to focus on a large number of rangefinding points, wherein a focused area of the subject is allowed to be automatically clipped out as said reference image.

7. The digital camera according to claim 1, further

including a stereophotographic mode, wherein, if set to said stereophotographic mode, an area in which a focal distance is at infinity is clipped out automatically as said reference image.

8. The digital camera according to claim 1, wherein said reference image designating unit performs designation of said reference image area by designating one or more of at least partial areas of said image to be referenced for image compositing that is displayed on said image display unit.

9. The digital camera according to claim 1, wherein said image storing unit further stores the image data for said image to be referenced for image compositing.

10. The digital camera according to claim 1, further comprising a camera control unit for performing control upon photographing such that a principal subject in said reference image and a principal subject in said image being presently photographed are equal to each other in density and color tint.

11. An image processing method, comprising steps of:

photographing a subject to acquire digital image data; and

assembling it with image data for a specified image to be referenced for image compositing to prepare image data for a composite image; further comprising the steps of:

upon photographing, attaching to one or more of at least partial areas of said specified image to be referenced for image compositing first identification information indicating that said one or more of at least partial areas are a reference image to be composited, and designated area information; and

attaching to an image in an shooting frame which is to be composited with said reference image second identification information indicating that said image in the shooting frame is to be composited; as well as

upon image outputting, preparing image data for a composite image obtained by compositing said image in the shooting frame with said reference image based on said first and second identification information as well as said designated area information.

12. The image processing method according to claim 11, wherein said attaching step upon photographing further attaches processing information which refers to what

processing step is to be performed or light transmittance information upon compositing which represents a specified light transmittance for use in image compositing and said image data for the composite image is prepared based on said first and second identification information, said designated area information and said processing information or light transmittance information upon compositing.

13. The image processing method according to claim 11, wherein, in addition to said first and second identification information, information about order of image compositing is used to prepare said image data for the composite image.

14. The image processing method according to claim 11, wherein information about a large number of rangefinding points is further obtained and a focused area of the subject is allowed to be automatically clipped out as said reference image to prepare the image data for the composite image.

15. The image processing method according to claim 11, further including a stereophotographic mode, wherein, if said stereophotographic mode is set, image data for a

stereoscopic image is prepared after any positional or angular offset between image areas in which a focal distance is at infinity on frames which are to be used in the stereophotographic mode is optionally corrected.

16. The image processing method according to claim 11, wherein said image data for the composite image is used for producing a composite print, recorded on an image data recording medium and delivered through a telecommunication network.

17. The image processing method according to claim 11, wherein camera control is further performed upon photographing such that a principal subject in said reference image and a principal subject in said image being presently photographed are equal to each other in density and color tint.

18. The image processing method according to claim 11, wherein adjustment is further performed when image compositing upon said image outputting such that a principal subject in said reference image and a principal subject in said image being presently photographed are equal to each other in density and color tint.

19. The image processing method according to claim 11, wherein said reference image or said image to be composited with the reference image is a motion image.

20. An image processing method, comprising steps of:

photographing a subject to acquire digital image data; and

assembling it with image data for a specified image to be referenced for image compositing to prepare image data for a composite image; further comprising the steps of:

upon photographing, preparing editing information including information about a name or a frame number of an image in a frame to be quoted as a reference image to be composited that is within said specified image to be referenced for image compositing, designated area information representing one or more of at least partial areas of said image in the frame to be quoted, and information about a name or a frame number of an image in a shooting frame to be composited with said reference image; and

upon image outputting, preparing image data for a composite image obtained by compositing said image in the shooting frame with said reference image based on said

editing information.

21. The image processing method according to claim 20, wherein said editing information further includes processing information which shows what processing step is to be performed to a designated area by said designated area information.

22. The image processing method according to claim 20, wherein said editing information further includes information about order of image compositing or light transmittance information upon compositing which represents a specified light transmittance for use in image compositing.

23. An image processing method, comprising steps of:

photographing a subject to acquire digital image data; and

assembling it with image data for a specified image to be referenced for image compositing to prepare image data for a composite image; further comprising the steps of:

upon photographing, designating at least one reference image within a specified image to be referenced for image compositing with at least one of a plurality of cameras and

attaching reference image designation data to the reference image;

sending and receiving image data for said at least one reference image designated among said plurality of cameras;

attaching to photographed images respectively photographed with said plurality of cameras which are to be composited with the reference image group identification information indicating that the photographed images belong to a unique group; and

on image outputting, compositing the photographed images respectively photographed with said plurality of cameras with said at least one reference image by using the photographed images respectively photographed with said plurality of cameras, said reference image designation data and said group identification information.